

VELOC OFFICE
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Volume XXI Number 3

FREE

Hill's Omega Club Honored At White House Luncheon

By Vas Arnautoff

Potrero Hill's Omega Boys Club gained added stature March 7 when co-founder Joe Marshall attended a White House luncheon honoring 28 community leaders from around the nation.

Marshall, who with Jack Jacqua, founded the club just three years ago to organize young people against the ravages

of drugs and crime, was invited to the White House by William Bennett, President George Bush's anti-drug chief.

During the luncheon, at which the President made a brief appearance, the 28 honorees were able to share experiences and success stories while Bennett and other administration figures listened. "There were no promises made", says Marshall, "but the recognition was important, and it was a beginning".

For their part, the community activists attending agreed to maintain an informal organization to keep in touch and to continue sharing insights and ideas.

An additional boost provided by the national recognition, Marshall points out, is that it helps the Omega Club's fund-raising efforts. Among the club's programs is one that provides aid to young people wanting to attend college. "Our first group will be juniors in college this coming year," the Omega leader states proudly.

Although the White House luncheon was a one-time affair with no immediate plans for future similar gatherings, Marshall believes it was a worthwhile experience for all concerned. "I felt that they were really listening to us", he says.



Recently honored in Washington, D.C. for his work with youth and drug abuse, Omega Club co-founder Joe Marshall (left, shown with co-founder Jack Jacqua), bestowed a special award to a parent of club member at the club's annual awards banquet.

Ruth Passen photo

Health Dept. Okays Hike For Hill Clinic Budget

Flo Stroud, the Mayor's Deputy Director for Community Public Health Services and Dr. Sam Ho, Medical Director of CPHS met with a group of Hill residents at the Caleb Clark Health Center, 1050 Wisconsin Street, on March 12 to present a list of department-wide funding priorities for fiscal year 1990-91.

In the past, the Health Department released the projected budget as a whole. This year has been broken down to indicate inclusion of items requested by Potrero patients at the last clinic meeting held with Stroud.

Their clerical, nursing, lab technician and security guard requests were included in Stroud's proposal, which was approved by the Health Department and forwarded to Mayor Art Agnos' office.

Many at the meeting felt the new procedure appeared to be an attempt to really involve the community as the group that knows best what the clinic needs.

The Mayor's final budget will be released to the Board of Supervisors for review by June 1, but Stroud indicated the clinic may get a security guard before then.

—Rita Giglio

Controversy Continues: Live/ Work Space or Open Space

City Responds to Questions on Use Of Arkansas St. Open Space

Recently our office received the petitions you submitted expressing an interest in seeing the property developed for open space. I want to acknowledge the receipt of the petitions and clarify the issues concerning the proposed development as our office sees them.

1. Can the site be acquired for open space?

The site your petition refers to is actually two sites, composed of a larger triangular parcel in private ownership bounded primarily by Arkansas and 18th Streets, and a smaller irregular site along 19th Street owned by the School District.

The owner of the privately held parcel is proposing a mixture of up to 65 market rate houses and up to 29 affordable artist live-work units. The School District parcel is not currently utilized although it appears that the District has not been actively seeking buyers. If either of the current owners is willing to sell the land to you, you can use it for any purpose allowable under the zoning.

The site is only one block from the Jackson Playground. The Potrero Hill area is not designated as a priority acquisition area by the Rec. and Park department, therefore it is extremely unlikely that the City would devote resources to the acquisition of either of the parcels in question.

2. Shouldn't the City be more involved

in acquiring open space like this one? What are the priorities for open space acquisition if not for sites like this?

The voters approved an open space acquisition program that has been targeted by the Rec. and Park Department to assist underserved neighborhoods like Chinatown, the Tenderloin, and the South of Market. They are also finalizing the purchase of land near Hunter's Point that will be partially used to recreate a tidal environment. In addition, over 68 acres of open space will be developed at Mission Bay, close by Potrero Hill.

3. There is an opportunity to reopen an urban creek on this site. Does the City not care about improving the environment?

In an urban environment, there are a lot of difficult choices to make to balance the land use needs of various users. On balance, it appears that the proposed housing development will be critical to maintaining the viability of lower income artists in San Francisco, who are being priced out of our city. The cultural environment, like the natural environment, is a sensitive one.

4. The proposed development is too large and too dense. Can it be modified?

The proposed development includes fewer units than might be allowed under the Planned Unit Development provisions

(Continued on Page 5)

Controversy continues on the Hill over the proposal to construct artist live-work spaces and condominiums on Arkansas Street between 18th and 19th Streets. In this issue of the Potrero View we present a statement from the Potrero Neighborhood Commons, a group that gathered petition signatures to maintain the area as open space, and a response to the issues raised in the petitions from Tom Jones of the Mayor's Office of Housing.

Hill Group Calls For Open Space On Arkansas St.

As any resident of Potrero Hill knows, the "Hill" has changed a great deal over the past 10 or 20 years. Many of the changes that have taken place are irreversible. How the Hill will change depends a lot on us - the current community of Potrero Hill.

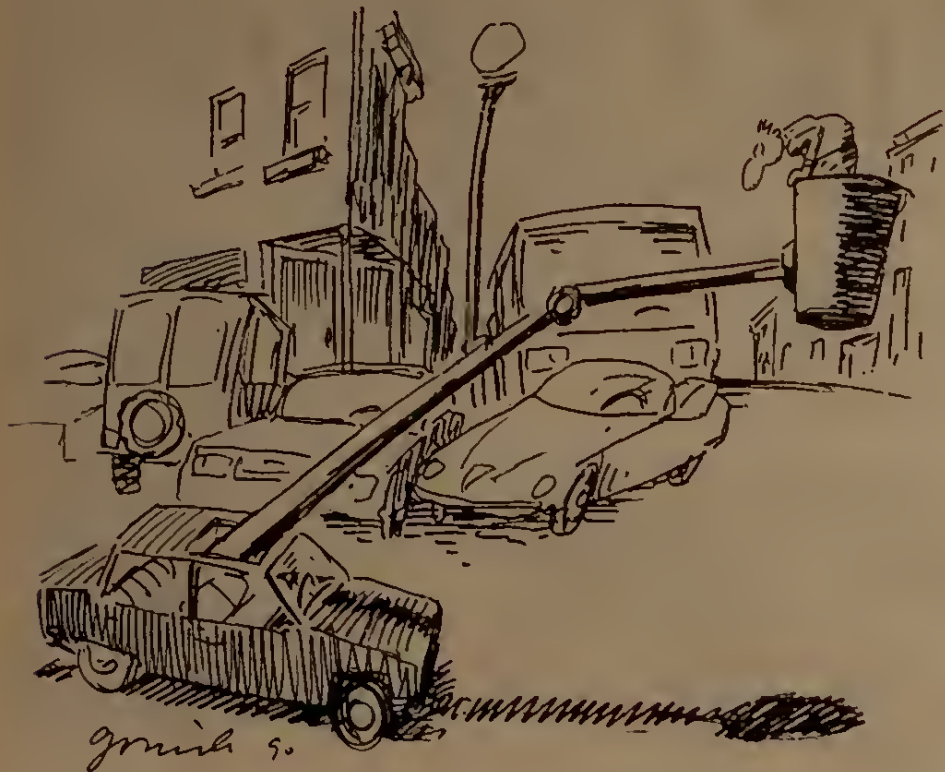
What we think can be done with our community and its various assets such as Open Space determines our response to it. The cumulative effect of our community's expectations will set the destiny of the continued existence of Open Space in our neighborhood.

Whenever one considers the notion of Open Space versus Development, the polarities of market enterprise versus environmental concerns and issues of the quality of our lives immediately become engaged. Questions such as what value should we give to what is already there - the earth, the vegetation, the flowers, the wildlife? Questions like this bring up issues of ethics and identity.

These issues form the core of the question of Open Space currently set in motion before the community of Potrero Hill.

The Open Space area, located on Arkansas Street along the entire expanse between 18th and 19th Streets, is one

(Continued on Page 5)



PATENT #67899330217: DEVICE FOR SEEING ONCOMING CROSS TRAFFIC AROUND CARS PARKED AT INTERSECTIONS...

IN OUR VIEW

Public Housing: First Step

In last month's issue of The Potrero View, we highlighted in a front page story the efforts of Potrero public housing tenants to organize, and we revealed their long-standing frustrations over trying to get the city's Housing Authority to provide badly needed repairs to bring their units up to liveable standards.

We're pleased to say that at least the first steps are being taken to respond to the tenants' determination. On March 7, Housing Authority Executive Director David Gilmore met with tenants who told him in no uncertain terms that these repairs would be a precondition to their participation in the Authority's development planning committee.

One week later, Gilmore wrote to Tenants Association President Carolyn Marshall, acknowledging that the Authority's "records contain 88 outstanding plumbing work-orders and 154 carpentry workorders," and setting a March 19 deadline for the beginning of carpentry work and a March 26 deadline for the beginning of plumbing. "All work included in this program," Gilmore promised, "will be completed by May 19."

Indeed, at View presstime, Housing authority trucks and maintenance workers appeared to be on the job tackling some of the serious repair problems at Potrero public housing. The tenants and groups supporting them, such as the San Francisco Organizing Project, will certainly be monitoring the progress of the work.

And the work itself is just the first step towards creating a liveable environment in our public housing. Tenants want desperately to rid their housing of crime and violence, to create a safe place for themselves to live, for their children to play.

The planning committee may well be one place to start. It would be comprised of Housing Authority staff, public housing residents, community representatives and police, and would meet at regular intervals. Gilmore promised in his letter to Marshall that he and the tenants will reach a mutual understanding about the authority, size and scope of the committee, and that the tenants' previous proposals will become Committee agenda items.

The tenants' efforts to create a liveable environment deserve the support of everyone on Potrero Hill. We hope that this first step — badly-needed repairs made as a result of tenant organization — will lead to a comprehensive program of working together for long overdue improvements.

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Community Mourns Loss of Actress Sigrid Wurschmidt

By Winifred Mann

A memorial service has been announced for Monday, April 16 to honor the memory of Sigrid Wurschmidt, popular San Francisco actress and Potrero Hill resident who died March 24 at age 37 after a valiant two and a half year battle with cancer. As the View goes to press, the location has not been finalized. Interested persons are urged to phone the Eureka Theatre office at 558-9811 for details. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in her name is suggested, to the Lemonade Fund, which provides assistance to seriously ill theater workers of the Bay Area. The fund can be reached c/o Theatre Bay Area, 2940 16th St., S.F. 94103, Suite 102.

The death of this gifted performer — in the prime of her talent — is an immeasurable loss to the local theater scene, and who knows to what even wider scene, had she survived. Sigrid is sure to be sorely missed by audience members and fellow theater workers alike. She leaves behind some poignantly vivid theatrical images, mainly from her long association with the Eureka Theatre in such plays as "Top Girls," "Cloud Nine," "A Bright Room Called Day," "Danny and the Deep Blue Sea" (my personal favorite), just a few among many more.

Among the various other companies whose stages she brightened, Sigrid took particular pleasure in her work with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, traveling in 1986 to Nicaragua with their production of "Hotel Universe." More recently she appeared in "Mozambique" — and only last year — "Seeing Double."

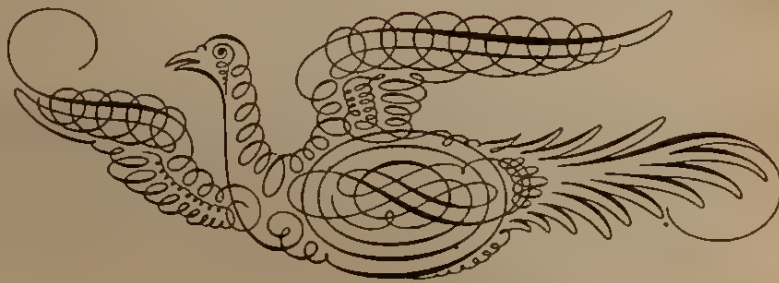
Even more special both for Sigrid and her husband, director Richard Seyd, was their joint participation in the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's "As You Like It" in September, 1988, a long-planned project. Now it became Sigrid's first public performance following the painful year of her first battle with cancer; a battle that appeared to be all but won. Sigrid's Rosalind was entrancing; vibrant and strong.



Sigrid Wurschmidt

In an interview just prior to the opening of the play (Potrero View, October, 1988) they both spoke of the deepened wells of self-knowledge each had gained from the trying ordeal. Richard spoke movingly of his desire to make the production of "As You Like It" a celebration. He had high praise for the cooperative spirit of the entire company, focusing all their talent, professionalism and their hearts on a common goal.

When we come together to bid farewell to Sigrid — those who knew her and those who merely derived pleasure and enlightenment from her work — it might be fitting — especially for those of us who are theater workers (even "semi-retired" actors) — to rededicate ourselves to making the most we can of such gifts as we possess — not excluding that most precious: the gift of life. Sigrid lived only half her life — but she lived it fully — giving her talent energy and capacity for work — enough to fill many a life of twice her years.



Masthead design by
Giacomo Patri

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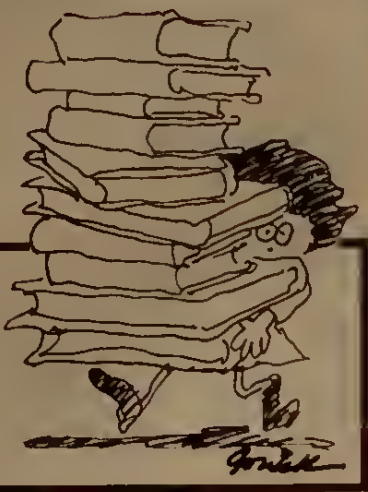
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LIBRARY NEWS
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ADULT SERVICES

April 25 is the night of a thousand stars! It's National Library Week, and throughout the country, celebrities will be reading from their own works or their favorite books.

Here on Potrero Hill, we have scheduled several of our local stars to shine between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m. Please don't be hurt if you didn't get invited - it was very much a last minute scheduling, and I just connected with those I heard about. Let me know your claim to fame, and I'll be sure to ask you to do something for the library!

But do come by the library on Wednesday night and you'll be sure to find some great literature, entertainment, or who knows what from our local actors, writers and wits.

And moving into May, here comes the annual art show. The party for the artists will be Friday evening, May 4, and the show will run through June 1. If you're an artist who is not on our mailing list, be sure to stop by the library for the letter explaining the details. The show is open to anyone who lives or works on Potrero Hill. This year's show will be the 35th annual, making it the longest running art show in the city. Be sure to be part of this event - if you don't paint, we can always use a cookie baker! See you at the library.

— Kay Roberts
Branch Librarian



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

If you're stumped about how to dress your child for Africa Focus Day on April 20, a few books in the library may be of help. "African Crafts" by Jane Kerina contains a section on "Adinkera printing," a form of tie dyeing that is done in West Africa. After you've finished tie dyeing you can learn how to fashion your newly designed fabric into a simple garment called a "lapa" for a girl and a "danshiki" for a boy. For further inspiration, look in "African Crafts For You To Make" by Janet and Alex D'Amato. This book includes instructions on how to make garments and accessories worn by members of the Zulu, N'Debele and Masai tribes.

Africa Focus Day is part of Africa Focus Week, which starts April 16. It is a joint project of the United Nations and the YMCA and is being celebrated in the public schools. The children's section of the library has many other books on different aspects of this diverse continent's culture so please stop by to take a look at them.

Preschool storytime will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3 and family storytime will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4. Since I will be on vacation from April 9 - 28, storytime will not meet during these weeks. Both sessions will resume in May.

— Cathy Nyhan
Children's Librarian

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

HISTORICAL NOTE

The editorial for our edition of April, 1980 noted:

"Our thanks go out to the reading public of Potrero Hill, as well as surrounding environs, for a constant loyalty and support.

"With such support we have grown from a four page to a 12 page tabloid; from hand set lettering for headlines, to a machine headliner.

"In this city we are probably the only community newspaper truly bound together by volunteers . . . And we have continued to function in this manner for almost ten years!"

WERE YOU COUNTED? (GONE ARE THE DAYS DEPARTMENT)

W. Carl Rogers, Census Coordinator, wrote in the VIEW ten years ago: "Why, you ask, is it so important for all people to be correctly counted in the 1980 census?"

He went on to explain that "The number of people counted in the census who are unemployed or with low incomes determines whether your community qualifies to receive federal monies under the Public Works and Economic Development Act . . . determines how much money goes to your community under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) . . . The number of people living in a house or apartment shows whether or not that housing is overcrowded (which) . . . determines how much money your community will get under the Housing and Community Development Act . . ."

You get the idea.

MISCELLANY, TEN YEARS OLD

The water tower on top of the Hill on 22nd Street was being repainted "after a 15 year hiatus. . . The tank was built in 1950, storing water from the Potrero Heights reservoir erected on that spot in 1897."

"The future of the Potrero Branch Library remains in doubt because the Public Library Commission . . . reluctantly adopted a budget proposal which would close Potrero, along with six other branches . . ."

Megan Bierman was photographed teaching a drama and mime class at the Nabe . . . The Julian Theater at the Nabe was featuring two plays headlined as "Straightforward Lesbian Story," and "Death & Healing in Last Acts" . . . John Durdan was pictured swinging and missing during the Potrero Rec's annual softball league . . . Edward Hatter, a Potrero Hill Golden Gloves junior middleweight title holder, was celebrated by Judy Baston in a story headed "WINNER . . . and CHAMP!!!"

—Arden Arnautoff



22
APRIL
1990

Muni/BART Tix at Nabe

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MUNI tickets for seniors - \$4.50
YOUTH MUNI tickets cost \$5.00

BART tickets are sold only seniors, and children for \$1.60 per ticket. For more information call 826-8080.

Spring Flea Market Slated For April 21 at the Nabe

There is always a bargain to be found at the Spring Flea Market and Bazaar Saturday, Apr. 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St.

Hunters and gatherers looking for everything from fashion and books to old records, antiques, toys, and tools browse through a wide variety of booths, each with its own special flavor, at this semi-annual community event. Buy, trade or sell that old high chair, hat pin or car stereo. You will find high-quality items at rock-bottom prices.

Along with the merchandise, Bazaar browsers can sample a wide variety of ethnic foods prepared by members of the Potrero Hill community, including several varieties of beans, Tamale pies, and assorted desserts.

Six foot by six foot spaces for vendors are available for \$10 and can be reserved by calling Ruth Passen at 826-8080. Proceeds from booth rentals and food sales benefit the ongoing work of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, a non-profit community center serving the Potrero Hill community and home to the Omega Boys and Girls Clubs. The Nabe's Girls Club will earn additional money that day by washing cars at the World Gym, 260 Dellaro St. Pick up a coupon at their booth.

Admission to the Flea Market is free. The Nabe is located at the corner of DeHaro and Southern Heights and is serviced by the 19 and 53 Muni lines. For more information about the Flea Market and reservations call 826-8080.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080

Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Youth Council Meetings - Wed., 4 p.m.
Parent Group Meetings - Wed., 6 p.m.
Girls Club Meetings - Mon., 5-7 p.m.
Omega Boys Club Meetings - 2nd & 4th Thurs. ea. month
Study Hall - Tues., 5-7 p.m.
Juvenile Diversion
Tutorial Program
Job Referral
Al-Anon - Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous - Sun/Mon/Thurs 8:30 p.m.
Cocaine Anonymous - Sat., 6-7 p.m.
Social Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults.
Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling.
Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost).
Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.
Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre (cost, \$5-7 per performance).

Facilities:

Meetingspaces available for use by community groups
Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and receptions
Gymnasium and recreational space
Photographic workshop
Bulletin board with job and events listings
Mini-park
Child Development Center (for pre-school children)

All services and activities FREE • Member, United Way of the Bay Area

New AIDS Research Facility Set for S.F. General

By Stephanie Potter

The new construction on the corner of 22nd and Vermont Streets at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) is expected to continue for another 18 months, but the neighbors aren't complaining. When completed, the 12 million dollar construction project will house an AIDS research facility on par with the Pasteur Institute in France and the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Adjacent to the construction are 10 houses on 22nd and San Bruno Streets,

affectionately regarded as "a little village" by 20-year old resident Toni Navarro: "We all know each other and watch out for each other," she says. Navarro admits that the construction is inconvenient and annoying, but finds it bearable for "such a good cause." Ruth Kryda who also resides there, notes the local parking problems as "always bad," and fully supports the project. "I'm very glad to see more AIDS research," she says.

Another resident who regards the neighborhood as "a good place to be and a well-kept secret," is hoping that soon taxi

drivers will be able to find his "non-neighborhood." He predicts: "Now we can say we're right across the street from the AIDS Research Center."

Research at the facility will be focused in molecular biology, virology and neurology in an effort to learn how the AIDS virus attacks cells and how to arrest this process. Researchers will also be working on the development of an AIDS vaccine. The construction will add two more stories to the existing pathology and morgue building, and is being funded entirely by the State of California.

When completed, the lab is expected to house a research staff of 60 to 70 guided by a core of "principal investigators." Staffing and day-to-day operations will be the responsibility of U.C. San Francisco, while maintenance will be the responsibility of the City.

Beverly Hayon of the Department of Public Health pointed out that "SFGH is already considered the 'number one' clinical care site for AIDS in the nation." She said there may be patient trials, but essentially the staff will be doing "strictly research." There are already

more than 60 experimental AIDS treatments being studied by doctors at UC and SFGH; and SFGH is the site for a number of other research centers, including the Gallo Clinic and Research Center, the Rosalind Russell Arthritis Research Laboratories, the Infectious Diseases facility, and the Sickle Cell Center.


Hayon explained the AIDS research project as an "unprecedented collaborative effort of UC, the SF Health Department, and the State," with bipartisan support in both state and local government. "Normally the State won't fund capital projects of this kind," she added. Educators affiliated with UCSF and SFGH were able to put together the proposal which was submitted to the State.

Governor George Deukmejian had slashed most AIDS proposals in 1986, but that year he became convinced that long-term investment in research was a good idea. Hayon pointed out that although the focus for now will be on AIDS research, in the future it could lead to answers for other diseases, including cancer.

BENEFIT FOR WILLSON




An April 29 benefit to defray court costs for Brian Willson, who lost his lower legs while blocking a Concord munitions train in 1987, will take place at SOMAR, 934 Brannan St. Admission is \$15. Call 957-1205 for information. Jock McDonald photo




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- PASTA OR RICE - Smoked chicken, Louisiana sausage, grilled eggplant, red bell peppers, and minis with linguini finished in white wine, olive oil, balsamic vinegar and capers.

\$8.95

\$2.95

- FRUIT MUSSELS - Marinated with green peppercorns, honey, garlic and ginger, skewered and grilled. Served with bearnaise sauce.
- TENDERLOIN LAMB - New Zealand Lamb Loin marinated in garlic, coriander, onion, peppers, lemon grass, and red wine, skewered and grilled. Served with bearnaise sauce.

\$2.95

- PRIMA VENT SCALLOPS - Marinated in soy sauce, saffron, lime juice, garlic, ginger, orange and olive oil, skewered and grilled. Served with a ginger sauce.
- SEAFOOD PASTA OR RICE - Mussels, clams, scallops and prawns with linguini finished in the sauce of the day.

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City Responds to Queries On Arkansas St. Site Use

(Continued from Page 1)

of the Planning Code. The Mayor's Office of Housing and the Planning Department have asked the project sponsor to analyze the proposed development in comparison to surrounding development, especially Victoria Mews. The proposed 29 unit artist live-work units are smaller than traditional single family units, and therefore we have requested the comparison look at total proposed building area and total proposed number of bedrooms in the development as indicators of potential population density.

The Mayor's Office of Housing and the Planning Department also requested the sponsor to modify the massing of the building in response to both neighborhood concerns and Planning and Building Code provisions which would limit the total height of development on down hill lots more than indicated by the concept sketches.

5. Who will be served by the affordable housing for artists, and how do we know it will benefit the intended people?

The artist live-work space will be separately owned as a cooperative by the ArtsDeco non-profit artists group at the completion of the project.

ArtsDeco will be contributing city-allocated funds to help make their portion of the development more affordable. In return for the use of the funds, the rents for the artist live-work space will be limited to a maximum of 80 percent of median income, or between \$595 and \$680 per month in 1989 dollars for the largest units, and as low as \$350 for the smallest ones. Rents may actually be lower than the maximum for many of the smaller units.

ArtsDeco will be required to keep the rents at 80 percent of median income for a minimum of 50 years. The cooperative will have a contract with the Mayor's Office of Housing with severe penalties if there is a violation of the affordability agreement, modeled on contracts used successfully with other non-profit housing development corporations for many years in San Francisco.

6. How much will the market rate units sell for?

The project sponsor has stated that the anticipated sales price for a two bedroom unit in the market rate portion of the development would be \$240,000.

7. Is the proposed development already endorsed by the City? How much can individual citizens really affect the proposal?

The Mayor's Office of Housing has been committed to funding the Arts Deco

group for six years if they could find a suitable building to rehabilitate or site to develop for affordable artist live-work space. Despite dozens of previous attempts, the proposed Arkansas Street development appears to be the most promising opportunity to date. Due to escalating costs for land and buildings, it is likely that if this opportunity is not realized, the group may never succeed in their mission.

The Mayor's Office of Housing feels that the Arkansas site may be able to accommodate new residential development which would include an ArtsDeco building, but that some issues such as density, massing, traffic impact, and view impact must be analyzed before a final development proposal can be endorsed.

In addition to the items already noted, the Mayor's Office of Housing has also requested the project sponsor to investigate the possibility that a portion of the site could be made accessible to the public for dog walking and other passive recreational purposes.

8. What is the schedule for reviewing and approving the proposed development?

The public review meetings in the community will include the construction of a working model of the site as currently proposed.

After the community meetings and further design refinement, the project will be scrutinized by the Planning Department and later submitted to the Planning Commission for Review and Approval. Several opportunities for public comments to the Department and the Commission will occur before the final hearing sometime during the late summer.

The project sponsor submitted a general proposal for environmental review five months ago, although the application has still not been assigned to a staff-person. The project as submitted can be reduced, but cannot be enlarged without requiring a revised environmental review.

9. Who can I contact in the City if I have any questions about the development?

Several staff at the Planning Department who are yet to be assigned will be responsible for the project review and approval process. Until those assignments are made, or for any questions regarding the ArtsDeco portion of the development, contact the project sponsor, McKenzie, Rose and Holiday at 896-6100 and ask for Rory Bled.

- Tom Jones
Mayor's Office of Housing



The property at 18th and Arkansas Streets looking south, currently subject of controversy on the Hill.

Hill Group Calls for Open Space on Arkansas St.

(Continued from Page 1)

of the last open spaces left in our City. Within the past few months this land was bought by Ric Holliday for \$1,000,000. His plans for development include 64 condominiums and 29 live/work spaces for artists plus a commercial and gallery space.

Issues of density; traffic problems; 36-40 foot heights; view restrictions; the safety of the tunnel that runs through the property are issues of serious consequence.... IF the development is to be built at all. This IF is the tell-all. This IF will be the determining response of the community of Potrero Hill. This IF will be the effect of our community's expectations, which will set the destiny of Open Space on Potrero Hill.

The members of the Potrero Neighborhood Commons feel that it is not a foregone conclusion that the quality of life be, once again, subjugated to market enterprise and ambitions of profit. Ric Holliday, himself, has stated that he was attracted to buying land on Potrero Hill because of the quality of life he saw there. This quality of life is precious to the community of Potrero Hill - it is fragile and, as we see in this case, exploitable.

The question we need to ask ourselves is how much can we be exploited....especially in light of the current development here in Potrero Hill, as well as the surrounding areas such as Mission Bay and Yerba Buena. All of these current developments will be adding a substantial increase in both permanent and commuter population to our area of the city. Projections by CalTrans call for an annual increase of 10 percent of traffic congestion on both the 101 and 280 freeways.

Potrero Hill is already lacking in Open Space when compared to other areas of the City. We are considered "below average" but not quite failing...yet!

We, as a community, can stop this downward spiraling of our quality of life. The first step will be to stop this development and regain our Open Space for the community. WE CAN DO THIS - WE CAN STOP THE DEVELOPMENT. Other neighborhoods have withstood the challenge to their quality of life - we can too. Please come to the meeting of the Potrero Neighborhood Commons on April 18, 7:30 pm at the Potrero Middle School.

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Artist Potenza's Hill Show Merges Personal & Political

By C. J. Hirschfield

Potenza is an artist committed to world peace; her paintings help to begin conversations on the subject. Barbara McPike shares that commitment, but also knows that good art coupled with a social conscience will no doubt be a very marketable investment in the nineties. The internationally-known artist, and perhaps the youngest art gallery owner in the world - it's a match made on Potrero Hill.

No sign announces the Barbara McPike Fine Art gallery on Missouri and 18th Streets; viewing is by appointment only. The third-story converted flat (McPike and roommates live in the back somewhere) is a study in off-whites, with a Bay view that won't quit. And then there is the art - all of it a retrospective of Potenza's art. Bold colors, strong images, studies of powerful faces. The artist was once told by sculptor Louise Nevelson, "You gotta have balls," and Potenza seems to have applied this gutsy philosophy to both her art and her life.

The Scottish-born contemporary artist is committed to igniting conversation on the subject of world peace, and has created The Peaceable Realm Project to further the vision. The mission of the project is to exhibit world-wide "The Peaceable Realm," a 360-foot painting, as a symbol of what can be. The main themes, the lion lying down with the

lamb, a child leading us to the understanding of peace, are predominant, with other colorful motifs throughout.

The goal of the project is to move the piece to different locations around the world, where participation and activities in each country will ignite conversation for world peace.

Manila, Philippines was the site of the painting's international debut last year, a gesture to acknowledge the country's "peaceful revolution." More recently it was displayed in Los Angeles at UNICEF's international press conference for the Annual State of the World's Children's Report. Possible future sites include Japan, Beijing, the Soviet Union, and Germany. San Francisco is also on the list. In fact the artist, who divides her time between California and New York, would prefer to see the piece permanently housed here, and is actively exploring options with the Mayor and Arts Commission to find a suitably large and appropriate space.

"Potenza's very much involved with world leaders," explains 19-year old manager/gallery owner McPike, who often hosts art investment dinners to introduce people to Potenza's works. "Art is in the news since the stock market crash," she notes. "The best investment is art." She acknowledges that Potenza's talent, international recognition, social conscience and good press add up to a winning combination in the world of art sales.



Artist Potenza (L), meets President Corazon Aquino in Manila, where Potenza's painting dedicated to world peace made its international debut.

What does the artist think about the business side of her art? "That's Barbara's job," she says good-naturedly. "I'm an artist. I use my art in a way that will make a difference." The artist was initially drawn to McPike's dedication to peace, and will hopefully profit from her young manager's business sense as well.

Not too long ago, Potenza sent out hundreds of letters to world leaders, asking them openly to declare themselves committed to peace. President George Bush, Queen Elizabeth, Ted Turner, Corazon Aquino, the President and Prime Minister of Israel and many many others responded - and in very personal ways. "Peace cards" were also sent out to non-celebrities, with a heartening response. "Whenever I get down, I bring out the cards, and just start reading. I get inspired again," she notes.

The artist has had reason to be down in recent months. Her 21-year old son and his fiancée were killed by a drunken driver in Santa Rosa last fall, and Potenza has found herself playing a lead role in the ensuing court case.

"Jonathan's death brought home for me what mothers must feel during wartime, when sons are killed senselessly," she says.

She plans to again merge the political and personal to paint a major work documenting the lives of the two young people, and is hoping to work in some way with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD).

When anyone hints at the guts it must take to attempt such a personal statement, she politely corrects, "It has nothing to do with courage. I'm an artist. I paint the way you use words - to communicate."

She recalls the time she observed three people standing in front of the same painting, and each had a completely different reaction to the art. "Each person who saw it, saw it differently," she notes. "But you know what? The painting didn't change. Communication is also about what we receive."

McPike recently rented out her Missouri Street gallery for a singles' party, observing that Potenza's art serves as a wonderful icebreaker to get people to begin to talk. From a singles' party on Potrero Hill to faraway places around the world - Potenza is hoping that the conversations - especially those about the possibility of world peace on this planet - will never stop.

The McPike Gallery can be reached at 824-1858.

CHECK FROM FILMMAKER



Potrero Boosters and Merchants Assn. President Rebecca Ford receives a \$1,000 check from Bill Sackheim (R), producer of "Pacific Heights," recently filmed on Potrero Hill. Watching are (L) Bob Moskowitz and Bob Flynn.

Lester Zeidmon photo

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Works by artist Robert Newrock will be premiered in an exhibition at San Francisco Fine Arts Center, 1500 Howard St. through April 30. Newrock's works, many over 18 feet high, are painted on the backs of rugs found on the streets of San Francisco. Many of these paintings have been on loan at the World Trade Center and the Rockefeller Center in New York City.



The city will celebrate the 1906 earthquake with an Earthquake Preparedness Week, April 16-27. Classes and support group meetings will take place in Children's Hospital, 3700 California St. Call 661-6244 for info.

The National Writers Union holds its annual conference on Saturday, Apr. 28, at New College, 777 Valencia St., for 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. For info. on costs, etc. call 654-6369.

The San Francisco Nuclear Free Zone Coalition, a consortium of individuals and organizations, is working on an Implementation Ordinance petition drive and campaign, and welcomes all to an Open House on Apr. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at their offices, 942 Market St., Suite 202. The documentary video, "Free Zone" will be shown, and refreshments will be served. The coalition is working towards qualifying for the November 1990 ballot in San Francisco. Other Nuclear Free Zone activities: A benefit for the petition campaign takes place on Apr. 8, from noon to midnight, at 1015 Folsom St. Many local and nationally recognized artists and their works will be featured, and from 7 to midnight there will be a line-up of rock and blues musicians in performance. For more info. call 995-4673.

Congratulations to Dick and Barbara Bright on their April 1 marriage. Its April in Paris for their honeymoon!

The Neighborhood House is offering Live Figure Drawing sessions Saturdays beginning April 7, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Nabe is located at 953 DeHaro St. Call Michael Rios for more info. at 826-8080. Registration is required, and a model's fee of \$5 is asked.

A history of early Bay Area theatre is currently on exhibit with rare 19th century theater posters and a lecture series about major figures and trends during the first 50 years of local performances. The exhibit can be seen at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum, 399 Grove St., through July.

One of the seemingly best-kept jazz secrets is that the Full Faith & Credit Big Band plays at Bruno's, 2389 Mission St., one Sunday a month! Their sound is what the oldtimers remember about the days of Goodman/Basie/Ellington and others. Catch them when you can. They play next on April 8, from 3-6 p.m.

To commemorate the death - and celebrate the life - of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, a performance by the Coro Hispano de San Francisco, and Conjunto Nuevo Mundo will take place Saturday, Apr. 7, at 8 p.m., at St. Peter's Church, Alabama near 24th St. Admission is free.

"Viewpoints," a new television series on KQED-TV beginning in April, presents independently produced point-of-view programs that examine controversial issues. On April 2 the show is "Vietnam Vet: Dissidents for Peace," at 10 p.m., followed by "First Strike: Portrait of an Activist" at 10:30 p.m. The 12-week series probes important social questions. The program will be seen each Monday at 10 p.m. through June, 1990.

Still celebrating Black History: An extended art series and set of performances honoring black artists at the Artist's Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Gallery hours are from noon - 8 p.m., through April 15. Call 824-3890 for more info.

Bay Area film and videomakers are welcome to apply for grants (totaling \$51,000), in the categories of short, personal works; project development; and completion/distribution. To receive guidelines and application forms send SASE to: Film Arts Foundation, 346 - 9th St., 2nd Fl., S.F. 94103. Deadline for submissions is May 11.

In order to provide new ideas and guidance in the area of programming activities for youngsters, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Dept. has established a Council on Children and Youth Activities, seeking help from individuals and organizations. The public is welcome to mail their written comments or suggestions to Joel Robinson S.F. Rec. and Park Dept., McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, S.F. 94117.

Other Rec. and Park activities: An annual Youth Track and Field Meet takes place Saturday, Apr. 28, at McAteer High School. Boys and girls born between 1976-1983 are eligible to participate. Qualifiers from this meet will advance to the ARCO Jesse Owens Games and the Hershey National Youth Program. Deadline for entries is April 21. Entry forms are available at local playgrounds, recreation centers and at the Athletic Office at Kezar Pavilion, at Stanyan and Waller Streets. Call 753-7028 for more info.

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Gino Biradelli, a resident of Potrero Hill for nearly 20 years, and proprietor of Cafferata Ravioli Factory, has brought his pasta factory to Potrero Hill and is now offering pasta for sale to the public at his new location at 130 Wisconsin Street, between 16th and 17th Streets, 626-8115.

Pastas available daily will include such items as tortellini, ravioli, fettuccine, linguine, fusili and bowties, to name but a few. The factory is also available to rent for private parties for either lunch or dinner.

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Berkeley Student Ferment Is Focus of Film on '60s

By Judy Baston

At the 20th year reunion of the 1964 Free Speech Movement (FSM) at UC Berkeley, a fellow defendant of the arrests following the student sit-in — now teaching journalism in the UC system — told me of a survey he had then recently taken of his students.

How many, he asked, had ever heard of the Free Speech Movement? Less than one-quarter answered 'yes.' For those of us who were part of the Bay Area student ferment that sparked nationwide activity, those 75 percent who answered 'no' were reason to look forward to a film that presented the aspirations and activities of that decade.

But despite some rare and compelling footage, "Berkeley in the Sixties," playing at the Roxie Cinema (3117 - 16th Street) from April 20-26, is in many ways simply not that film.

"Berkeley" — cut from four hours to two — still retains some extremely fine footage of the FSM; the 1963 sit-ins to

integrate the staff of San Francisco's Sheraton-Palace Hotel; Oakland's 1967 Stop the Draft Week; the rise of the Black Panther Party; the 1969 march on Berkeley's People's Park. And the film begins with footage of the action that many believe signaled a break with the "silent generation" of the 1950s: the demonstration at San Francisco City Hall where hearings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) were taking place in May, 1960, and at which demonstrators were washed down the City Hall steps.

In a film titled "Berkeley in the Sixties," it's fair to expect a focus on students. But with little exception, the film gives the mistaken impression that the student ferment took place in a vacuum, and that the student victories were theirs alone.

Berkeley is not located near, say, Peoria, or Baton Rouge. It's a 25-minute ride from San Francisco and Oakland, where despite more than a decade of cold-war pressure, a progressive movement had managed to survive. The Sheraton-Palace demonstration, for example, yielded a breakthrough hiring agreement in large part because of economic pressure from a racially integrated and progressive union, the Int'l. Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Other veterans of '60s activism in Berkeley report that they stressed these interconnections to filmmaker Mark Kitchell, but obviously to little avail, because the film gives no sense of the Bay Area-wide political climate in which the students could begin, as one activist of the time recalled, "to think we could have an effect on history."

Although on the calendar the 1960s was a single decade, in Berkeley — and throughout the nation — there were clearly two generations of activists. The first engaged in protest about civil rights, civil liberties and academic freedom issues, among others. But as the decade entered its waning years and notions of counter-culture began to spread, another political generation, as one participant remembered in the film, "became much more alienated from American society and much more willing to be disruptive of that society."

Yet as some Berkeley actions were becoming more angry, confrontational and isolated, a huge movement was beginning to grow against the Vietnam War. Not even mentioned in the film, for example, is that nearly 90,000 people marched in San Francisco in April, 1967 for an end to the war in Vietnam.

Several on-screen interviews articulate dramatically some of the attitudes that represented the counter-culture movement. "Instead of trying to change the structure in a direct way," one woman noted, "you just drop out and live it the way you think it ought to be." But the second half of the film, which evokes this latter part of the decade, suffers even more deeply than the rest from lack of context and point of view.

UC Berkeley Philosophy Professor John Searle, an early faculty supporter of the FSM, provides cogent commentary as he is interviewed throughout the film.



Students march from UC Berkeley's Sather Gate during 1964 Free Speech Movement.

He notes that many late '60s activists had "no vision, no articulated philosophy, no conception of social organization and social change." It was, he recalled, "a series of emotional moments, desperately important issues; they were bound to lose without a coherent, well-worked-out vision of what they were trying to do."

In many ways Searle could have been talking about the film itself. In order to show periods of confusion, a film need not lack a cogent point of view. In order to evoke periods of arrogance, a film need not mirror that attitude by ignoring the context in which political developments took place.

The 1960s were a tremendously important decade, especially here in the Bay Area. As former FSM defendant Jackie Goldberg, now president of the Los Angeles Board of Education, stresses in "Berkeley:" "We were part of the struggle for civil rights, part of the movement that liberated American culture, the movement for women's equality. American society was profoundly changed by the movement of the '60s."

We are living the legacies of that decade in many ways. Most workforces are far more integrated and civil rights laws are at least on the books; the Vietnam

war is long over and serves as a standard to warn against U.S. intervention in other lands; the witch-hunting HUAC was disbanded not long after the San Francisco demonstrations. And in the nation's universities, discussion and debate still continues about changes that began as a result of '60s student movements.

With that in view, "Berkeley in the Sixties" may well be the first in a series of films that begin to tell the story of this important decade. Showings at the Roxie are at 7 and 9:30 p.m., with 2 and 4:30 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call the Roxie Cinema at 863-1087.



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Arnold Mesches' "The Kiss," showing a tender farewell between Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, executed in 1953 after being accused of espionage, is one of nearly 60 works in "Unknown Secrets: Art and the Rosenberg Era," an exhibit until April 22 at the Jewish Community Museum, 121 Stuart St. The exhibit centers on the Rosenberg case but evokes many facets of the witchhunts of the 1950s.

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Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre, 953 De Haro St. presents **SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR**. Fri. & Sat., Apr. 6 - May 12, at 8pm. Box Office: 839-9271.

Eureka Theatre, 2730-16th St., presents West Coast Premiere of **MA ROSE**, thru Apr. 8. 558-9898.

Eureka Theatre, 2730-16th St. presents premiere of **ROOTS IN WATER** by Richard Nelson. Previews Apr. 26 - 29 & May 1 at 8pm. Opens May 2 - 27. 558-9898.

Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926-16th St., presents **GERTRUDE STEIN AND A COMPANION**, by Win Wells. Thru Apr. 15. 861-5079.

New Performance Gallery, 3153-17th St. **BAY AREA THEATRESPOITS** presents

members of local theatre/comedy community every Monday at 8pm. 824-8220. **The Loft**, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. **BAY AREA THEATRESPOITS - LATE NIGHT SERIES**. Improvisational stories based on audience suggestions. 824-8220.

Studio Eremos in Project Artaud, 401 Alabama St. (at 17th St.) presents Tale Spinners Theatre production of **SENIORS**, a musical revue about growing up and growing old in San Francisco. Previews Apr. 25 & 26. Opens Apr. 27 at 8pm. 621-8875 for reservations.

FILM

Roxie Cinema, 3117-16th St. **THE 1ST SAN FRANCISCO DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL** thru Apr. 5th. 431-3611.

DANCE

Third Wave Theater, 3316-24th St. Tance Danz & Guests present **EARTHWATCH CELEBRATION**, Apr. 6 & 7 at 8:30pm. 968-5959 for info/res.

MULTI-MEDIA

Galeria de la Raza, 2857-24th St. presents **UN RINCON CIRCA DEL CIELO/A CORNER NEXT TO THE SKY** thru Apr. 21. Tues-Sat., 12-6pm. 826-8009 for info.

Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama at 17th. **ATLANTIS PAVED OVER**, a revue in 12 scenes. Apr 6 - 12, 8pm. Preview Apr. 3. Opening night Apr. 5. Box Office: 621-8875.

Artists' Television Access (A.T.A.), 992 Valencia St. (nr. 21st) presents Deke Weaver's **AN ACCUMULATION OF ANSWERS**, a layered performance piece with video, film, slides & live monologues. Apr. 20 at 8:30pm. 824-3890 for info.

Pirandello's "Six Characters" Next Feature Play at Potrero Hill Theatre

The Potrero Hill Theatre Ensemble continues its 1990 season with Luigi Pirandello's "Six Characters in Search Of An Author", opening April 6, and playing through May 12, at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre, 953 Dellaro St.

Directed by David Parr, "Six Characters" is Pirandello's best known play. The reality of the theatre and unreality of life cross over as the dramatist steps in and out of the framework of stage convention. His concerns are the nature of truth and delusion, the borderline

between sanity and madness, and human motivations and what lies behind them.

Sponsored by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, The Potrero Hill Theatre Ensemble is a collaboration of artists dedicated to the development of local talent. The ensemble holds weekly acting workshops, presents local show-cases and produces full-scale productions. Performances of "Six Characters" begin at 8 p.m. and will be performed on consecutive Fridays and Saturdays. General admission is \$7. For ticket reservations call (415) 939-9261.

"MA ROSE"



Margarethe Robinson (L) in the title role asserts her matriarchal authority over her granddaughter, Cynthia L. Robinson (seated) while her own daughter, Judith Moreland looks on. Ma Rose continues at the Eureka Theatre thru April 8.

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MAKING THE SHOT



Some of the action at the Potrero Hill Rec Center during the Junior Basketball league, as Michael Wiggins and Willie Lockhart go up for a rebound. The Rec Center is located on Arkansas and Madera Streets.

Jon Greenberg photo

Burton Named to Chair Assembly
Select Committee on the Homeless

Assemblyman John Burton (D-San Francisco) has been appointed Chairman of the Select Committee on the Homeless by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown.

Burton, a Potrero Hill resident, noted that he requested to be appointed Chair of this committee as the issue of homelessness is of foremost importance to the people of San Francisco.

He has reintroduced AB 2657, which was vetoed by Governor George Deukmejian last year. AB 2657 is an effort to help local jurisdictions capture federal dollars to provide services to the homeless. In 1987, Congress passed the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to provide funds to the states and local governments for shelters, job training, mental health and health services, and transitional housing services to homeless veterans and others.

This year President George Bush has agreed to full funding of these programs, or \$668 million. Some of these federal funds require matching funds from local governments. Since local funds may not be readily available, AB 2657 would provide for a revolving fund to be administered by the State Controller to lend the whole or part of the local match to local government, in order that they may apply for McKinney Act monies.

"AB 2657 provides an innovative solution that will maximize the use of federal dollars to provide much needed services to California's growing homeless population," Burton said. "I am hopeful that we will get this bill passed and signed by the Governor this year and will fight to continue to look for humane solutions to our homeless problem."

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To register, you must send or deliver a special reservation application and deposit to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. Applications for City residents will be processed beginning April 6 for reservations beginning and ending on a Saturday. On April 23 non-resident applications will begin to be processed (for Saturday to Saturday reservations).

Reservations for periods beginning and ending other than on a Saturday will be accepted after April 30 as available space permits.

Call the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department at 666-7073 for a reservation application or pick one up at the Camp Mather Desk, McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park.



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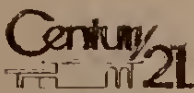
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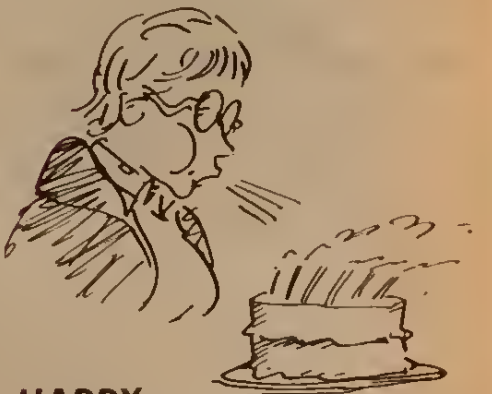
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